



**COMMISSION FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIC
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION**

MEETING AGENDA

**Arkansas Department of Education Auditorium
September 29, 2011
8:30 AM**

Agenda Summary

1. Summary Meeting Minutes – May 31, 2011

Recommendation – That the Commission approve the meeting minutes for the May 31, 2011 Commission teleconference meeting.

2. Rules Changes

The division is presenting several rules that require changes due to statutory revisions made during the 2011 legislative session and to increase the effectiveness of division processes and support to school districts. Upon the Commission's approval, the draft rules will be released for public comment including a public hearing. After the public review and comment period, the final rules will be presented to the Commission for their review.

Recommendation - That the Commission approve the draft rules for public review and comment.

Presenter – Mark White

A. Appeals Rule

These draft rules contain the process for school districts to appeal written determinations made by the Division to the Commission or to the Facilities Review Board and to appeal Review Board decisions to the Commission. The rules contain the procedures that the Review Board and the Commission will use to review and hear appeals.

Legislative Changes –

- School district appeals of division determinations that affect the state financial participation in a project must be heard by the Commission.

B. Master Plan Rule

Legislative Changes –

- Changed master plan length from ten to six years
- Confirmed that enrollment projections for projects should be ten years

C. Academic Facilities Partnership Program Rule

Legislative Change –

- Changed definition of “new construction” from improvement over “original condition” to improvement over “current condition”

i. Rule

ii. Arkansas School Facility Manual (Appendix B)

The Academic Facilities Advisory Committee met on September 8, 2011 and approved changes to the Arkansas School Facility Manual. These changes, that reflect more current building codes and practices, are contained in Section 2, Chapter 7, of the Arkansas School Facility Manual.

iii. Partnership Program Project Agreement (Appendix D)

The project agreement has been simplified to be more in accordance with the Partnership Program rules. Appendix A (project timeline) has been eliminated since the rules specify required timelines. Appendix B (district pay requests and budget) has been revised to provide more concise information. Appendix C (architect contract clauses) and Appendix D (construction contract clauses) have been eliminated since the rules say that the use of these clauses are optional.

D. Transportation Rules Governing Maintenance and Operations of Public School Buses and Physical Examinations of School Bus Drivers

Legislation Change – Parental monitors on school buses.

3. 2012 Master Plan and Partnership Program Guidelines and Project Application for 2013-2015 projects

The Partnership Program Application and Guidelines for 2013-2015 projects have been incorporated with the 2012 Master Plan Guidelines. The reason for this incorporation is that the Partnership Program project application has been converted to an electronic submission as part of the master plan process. This change will simplify the process for district submission and provide the division more concise

information. Since the guidelines are instructional and not regulatory, the proposed changes to the Master Plan Rules and Partnership Program Rules remove the guidelines as Appendix A in those two rules.

Presenter – Dr. Charles Stein

4. Statewide State of School Facility Conditions Annual Report

Ark. Code Ann. 6-21-112 (f)(15) requires the Division to report by October 1 of each year to the Governor, the House and Senate Committees on Education, and the Academic Facilities Oversight Committee on the state of condition of academic facilities statewide. The report also includes summary results of lawfully required inspections of public school academic facilities by state agencies and commissions.

Recommendation – That the Commission approve the report for dissemination as required by law.

Presenter – Dr. Charles Stein

5. Report – July 2011 and September 2011 Millage Elections

School districts held millage elections in July 2011 and September 20, 2011. Per Ark. Code Ann. 6-21-811 (f)(1)(A) the Division will provide written notices to the districts with failed millage elections for a conference to discuss facility needs in the district.

Presenter – Dr. Charles Stein

6. Report – Academic Facilities Partnership Program

The spreadsheet report indicates the numbers of projects and the projects that have been rescinded, completed, or in progress. The report also indicates the amount of state financial participation committed, expended, and remaining for each of the funding bienniums of the Partnership Program.

Presenter – Dr. Charles Stein